

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 272267

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT LISBON 6808 ACTION SECSTATE INFO

NATO 17 NOVEMBER 75.

QUOTE

S E C R E T LISBON 6808

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, PO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE REPRESENTATION AT DECEMBER MINISTERIALS

REF: USNATO 6200 AND PREVIOUS

1. IN SELECTING MORAIS DA SILVA GOP HAS MET THE CRITERIA
ESTABLISHED IN USNATO 5409. WHETHER THIS IS CONSCIOUS DECISION
OR NOT, MORAIS DA SILVA IS PERSONALLY A MODERATE WHO HEADS THE
MOST PRO-WESTERN BRANCH OF THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY SERVICES.
WE CONSIDER HIM RELIABLE.

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2. MORAIS DA SILVA WAS THE MAN WHO TURNED THE TIDE AGAINST

VASCO GONCALVES. HIS PUBLIC DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE NINE CAME AT A STRATEGIC MOMENT AND STARTED THE GROUND SWELL THAT LED TO GONCALVES'S OUSTER. HE SUBSEQUENTLY PURGED THE AIR FORCE ASSMBLY OF ITS COMMUNIST ELEMENTS. MORE RECENTLY MORAIS DA SILVA STOOD UP AT A REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEETING AND SAID HE WOULD TAKE CARE OF RADIO RENASCENCA. WHATEVER WE MAY THINK OF THE MEANS HE USED AND THE REPERCUSSIONS THIS CREATED WITHIN THE PARATROOP REGIMENT, IT DEMONSTRATES QUITE CLEARLY WHERE HIS SYMPATHIES LIE.

3. MORAIS DA SILVA IS PRESENTLY ONE OF THE PCP'S PRINCIPAL TARGETS. HE IS STRUGGLING MIGHTILY TO MAINTAIN DISCIPLINE AND ESPRIT DE CORPS IN THE AIR FORCE IN THE FACE OF CONSTANT PCP SUBVERSIVE EFFORTS AND ADVERSE PUBLICITY IN COMMUNIST PRESS. RECOMMEND WE TRY TO AVOID SLIGHTING HIM AT DECEMBER DPC MINISTERIAL SINCE THIS COULD HURT HIM AND OTHER ANTI-COMMUNISTS IN PORTUGAL.
CARLUCCI UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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